

REMARKS

Claims 1-161 are pending in the application. Claims 59, 61, 72-76, 144, 145, 147 and 155-159 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts. Claims 1-58, 77-143, 160 and 161 have been allowed. Claims 60, 62-71, 146 and 148-154 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 59 and 144 have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a zoom lens system that forms a final image of an object and a first intermediate real image between the object and the final image. The zoom lens system includes a first optical unit located between the object and the first intermediate real image. The first optical unit comprises at least one optical subunit which is moved (zoomed) to change the size (magnification) of the first intermediate real image. The zoom lens system also includes a second optical unit located between the first intermediate real image and the final image, at least a portion of which is moved (zoomed) to change the size (magnification) of the final image. The zoom lens system provides a wide zoom range of focal lengths with continuous zooming between the focal lengths and optional image stabilization.

Claims 59, 61, 72-76, 144, 145, 147 and 155-159 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts. Claims 59 and 144 have been amended to more clearly describe the zoom relay as an entity that zooms for magnifying the intermediate real image to form a final image. With the amendments to claims 59 and 144, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims has been overcome.

The Examiner noted that although the eye-piece (E) of Roberts is not a zoom (variable powered) lens unit, it can nevertheless be considered a zoom relay because there was nothing in the claim that required the zoom relay to be a zoom itself. As noted above, claims 59 and 144 have been amended to include the limitation that the zoom relay zooms for magnifying the intermediate real image to form a final image.

Roberts does not disclose "a zoom relay that zooms," as recited in amended claims 59 and 144. Because Roberts does not disclose all of the limitations of amended claims 59 and 144, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 59 and 144 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts has been overcome. In addition, because claims 61 and 72-76 depend from claim 59, and claims 145, 147 and 155-159 depend from claim 144, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of those claims has been overcome for the same reasons provided above with respect to claims 59 and 144.

Claims 60, 62-71, 146 and 148-154 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 60 and 62-71 depend from claim 59, and claims 146 and 148-154 depend from claim 144. Because the rejection of claims 59 and 144 has been overcome as described above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims 60, 62-71, 146 and 148-154 should be withdrawn.

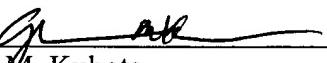
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 490962002200.

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Respectfully submitted,

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